times of the eastern maritime provinces in the palmy decade between '54 and '64, for it must be borne in mind that our American neighbors are sending large fleets to the Alaska coast, and these added to the Canadian, are beginning to make west coast commerce assume proportions that five years ago the vainest dreamer would not have dared to predict.

Dr. Dawson does not exaggerate the finny resources of the west coast. He is quite moderate in his estimate, and when he next pays a visit to the Queen Charlotte Islands, he will be delighted to see that commerce is gradually extending its dominion over regions to which hitherto it has been a total stranger, and which he supposed would not be invaded at the time of his last visit.

It is in no spirit of jealousy that I mention that capital from other sources than the Dominion is finding its way into these waters, and names heretofore unknown to Canadian boards of trade are beginning to appear in the ranks of these engineers of commerce, who prove their right to their distinction by the success which they are achieving.

The student of Canadian commerce, as he ponders over these facts, is inclined to think that while great Solons of trade in the enlightened centres are deliberating over decaying issues, the man from abroad has arrived, and with his machinery, his pluck and his energy, and wholly regardless of boards of trade and chambers of commerce, is reaping the harvest of the deep, alternately whitening and darkening the shores of the Pacific with his sails and with the smoke of his steam craft, and giving employment to the thousands of willing hands that follow his enterprising footsteps.

Here is food for reflection for those the burden of whose cry is that the Dominion "has arrived at the stopping place," and that the "way out" is through the politicians.

MAXIME MARITIME.

LIFE ASSURANCE TERMS.

Irregularities and anomalies in the matter of life assurance premiums and terms, as between one assurant and another, or as between one agent and another, have long been a source of criticism and complaint. Enormous rebates have been offered and given, extravagant concessions made by foolish or designing agents to prospective insurants. This was done to an extent that not only disgusted prudent life underwriters, but that led prospective customers to question the good sense of agents who were guilty of such reckless folly in order to get business, as well as the good faith of companies that employed them.

In order to put a stop to such practices a bill is to be introduced into the Dominion House at the present session. It is proposed by this bill to add to the Insurance Act, at the close of section 43, provisions of the following character: No life assurance organization doing business in Canada shall in any policy discriminate between those assured on the same plan, equally eligible lives, or with the same expectation of life, either in premium, return of dividend, nus, bonus addition or otherwise.

No life insurance agent shall make any contract or agreement of insurance other than that expressed in the policy issued therefor; nor shall any company, agent, sub-agent, or broker, pay, or allow, or offer as an inducement any rebate of premium, or any special favor or advantage other than that specified in the policy.

Insurance agents are to be required to take out a license. No one is to be allowed to solicit or procure applications for life assurance who has not received a license, price two dollars, from the Superintendent of Insurance, at Ottawa. The names and addresses of these license holders to be published in the *Canada Gazette*, the license to be renewed annually in January. To obtain a license as above, pre-supposes a recommendation from the manager or chief agent of the company for which the licensee does business. The license to be transferable if the holder leaves the company for another. Violation of the provisions in the two last paragraphs above will subject a license-holder to the revocation of his license, to his disqualification for three years, and to a penalty of $50 besides half the first year's premium on any policy thus illegally obtained or accepted. The penalties to be recoverable with costs by any person who sues for the same. In default of payment of the sum for which he is mulcted by the court, the offender to be imprisoned for three months in the common jail of the district.

Further, it is proposed to be enacted that no company, nor any official or employe of a company, canvassing or soliciting, shall accept an application for insurance from a person whose license has been revoked, or from a person who does not hold a license from the Government.

This measure is an attempt to regulate what has long stood in need of some sort of regulation, *i.e.*, the terms upon which a man who desires life assurance shall get what he stipulates for, without secret rebates or other conditions that place him on a different plane from a man who pays the same. Unscrupulous agents have done much to injure legitimate life underwriting by offering terms not justified by the open contract offered. It was time that some step should be taken towards limiting such power for harm. It is too much to expect that the passage of this bill will rid the profession entirely of the sly and underhand agent, but its effect is likely to be salutary.

We received this week, too late for extended notice, a copy of the Ontario bill respecting insurance corporations introduced recently by Hon. Mr. Gibson, of Hamilton. It deals with friendly societies, and is very voluminous. This measure proposes not licensing, as the Ottawa measure does, but to regulate the doings of agents by compelling them to register, their names as registered to be published. Any person not so registered trying to effect life assurance is to be fined from $20 to $200. The regulations for the friendly societies are stringent.

—A dividend of four per cent. for the half year has been declared by the Molsons Bank, and one of three and a half per cent. for the same period, by the Western Bank of Canada.

LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE, MONTREAL.

We have received the report for 1891 of La Chambre de Commerce du District de Montreal. This body consists of about 300 members, some 14 of whom are, judging from the names, English, the remainder French Canadian. D. Pariseau is president; L. J. Boivin, vice president; S. Cote, secretary. The annual subscription is $2; the chamber meets monthly, the council weekly. A considerable proportion of the members, some 66 in all, have titles, we observe, for in addition to the officers, the council, and the Board of Arbitration, there are six different boards of examiners of different merchandise with from two to six members on each. The transactions of the year include discussions by the chamber on beet root, alcohol production, duties on raw sugars, commercial failures, the South Shore Railway, commercial and agricultural education, in which direction they recognize that much remains to be done; peddlers, the electric railway, the immigration of Jews, which is recognized as undesirable and threatens to become a burden [*menace de devenir un fardeau pour le Canada*]; a "national" monument, which is neither more nor less than a building for the St. Jean Baptiste Society, which project the Chamber varies by suggesting the expropriation, instead, of land to make a public square of the place where St. Lawrence market now is. The report concludes by urging that French Canadian merchants "remain no longer behind their English compeers in the invading march of progress. It is unhappily true that for long years our compatriots have been too indifferent to public affairs and the general interests of commerce and industry." The council remarks, however, with satisfaction, that an awakening has been produced in this particular and takes credit to itself for the same. The council sensibly makes the public health a matter of discussion, and it has the pluck to urge that *real* agricultural schools be established in the Province of Quebec "to replace the so-called institutions of the kind to which grants of public money have too long been made without benefit to our farmers."

SEVEN MONTHS' EXPORTS.

We have received from Ottawa the Trade Navigation *Blue Book*, which we have not space to-day to quote from at length. We observe, however, a statement sent from Ottawa to the *Empire*, and presumably official, which is of much interest. It gives exports for the seven months for two fiscal years. In every item, except that of forest products, there is a large increase in the later year, the total being ten millions and a quarter. The following comparative figures tell the tale:

	1890-91.	1891-92.
Mines	$ 3,731,069	$ 4,163,388
Fisheries	6,658,683	7,042,694
Forest	16,661,599	13,904,689
Animals	20,066,580	21,707,620
Agriculture	9,156,943	15,399,792
Manufactures	3,492,876	3,781,738
Miscellaneous	143,996	106,293
Totals	$59,911,749	$66,106,215
Net produce	7,224,420	11,274,996
Totals	$67,136,169	$77,381,211